



U.S. Department of Justice

**Ronald C. Machen Jr.**  
*United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

### **For Information Contact:**

**Public Affairs**

(202) 252-6933

[http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press\\_Releases/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html)

## **District Man Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Murder In 2009 Slaying in Northeast Washington**

WASHINGTON - Marcus J. Ruffin, 26, of Washington, D.C., has pleaded guilty to second degree murder in a killing that took place in 2009 in Northeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Ruffin entered the guilty plea on April 8, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. After accepting the defendant's guilty plea, the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher accepted the recommendation of the parties and sentenced the defendant to 15 years of incarceration.

The charge stemmed from the killing of Antwain "Nephew" Robinson, 29, which took place about 3:15 a.m. on July 3, 2009 in the 4400 block of Ponds Street NE. According to the evidence at the plea hearing, Ruffin shot the victim in the head while intending to kill or seriously injure him. The defendant fled the scene, and Mr. Robinson was transported to the hospital. Mr. Robinson died on July 12, 2009, as a result of this gunshot wound.

In announcing the guilty plea and sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and particularly praised the work of Violent Crimes Branch Detectives Anthony Greene, Gabriel Truby, Joshua Branson, Gus Giannakoulis, Thomas Webb, and Trina Bruce, as well as Mobile Crime Technicians Kemper Agee and Ridley Durham. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Kelly Blakeney, who helped prepare the case during the investigation and for trial; Litigation Technology Specialist Leif Hickling, who created graphics to help illustrate what happened the night of the murder; Intelligence Specialist Lawrence Grasso, who mapped out the use of the defendant's cell phone on the night of the murder, and Victim Witness Unit Specialist Marcia Rinker, who helped reassure the victim's family throughout the case. Finally, he praised the outstanding work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys George Pace, who conducted the preliminary investigation, and Sharad S. Khandelwal, who investigated, indicted, and prosecuted the case through sentencing.